



OUR SATURDAY NIGHT SUPPER TABLE SERIES. A Diet for Mental Dyspeptics—A Salad for Small Salaries, AND A SALVE FOR BAD CUTS. The whole carefully compounded and put up expressly for Family Use. BY OUR SERIES EDITOR.

THE MODERN PLAYGOER, And All that is Expected of Him.

As a rule, an ordinary playgoer, who pays for admittance, goes to his seat with a good-natured intention to make the best of everything that the management in its bounty provides for his accommodation and entertainment. When the curtain rises he takes everything that is set before him with a gentle, touching faith in its possibility, and unhesitatingly honors all calls that are made upon his credulity by authors, managers, and actors. He indorses the following:—That an impenetrable forest shall always take the form of eight symmetrical trees, planted with mathematical accuracy in two parallel rows, and backed by a mass of tangled brushwood; that guests at a supper shall only round three sides of the table; that four or five persons conversing in a room shall do so standing in a row; that the windows of a nobleman's drawing-room shall only reach half-way to the ceiling; that the inside of a house is much bigger than the outside; that gentlemen of undoubted breeding shall wear their hats indoors in the presence of ladies of exceptional refinement; that the drawing-rooms of people of taste and fortune are always decorated



An Ordinary Drawing-room Scene. With pink panels, trimmed with gold mouldings, and never papered on any account; that the introduction of gas into private houses dates from the days of (say) Julius Cæsar; that a transparent moon is a triumph of scenic ability; that waterfalls always creak; that champagne is the common beverage of the nobility at all hours of the day and night; that a mortgage can at any moment foreclose; that for an old or otherwise undesirable lover to hand over his



Wicked Guardsmen Plotting to Entrap a Rich Nobleman. promised bride to any gentleman whom dramatic justice may point out as the proper person for her to marry, and for the situation to be accepted cheerfully, on the spot, by all parties concerned, is an every-day bit of magnanimity and resignation; that the upsetting of a table may readily be mistaken for the howling of a storm; that a noise like the springing of an exaggerated rattle conveys a faithful idea of the falling of a house, the noise of carriage wheels, or the smashing of glass; that pieces of broken crockery shaken up in a basket represent the kind of noise that a comic gentleman would make



The Name as Seen on Chestnut Street. In falling through a skylight; that it is usual for guests at a party to express open and unreserved admiration of the magnificence of the rooms in which they are entertained; that valets wear powder; that a room of the chambers wears a canary coat; and that in the best-regulated establishment there is always one comic footman in an exaggerated heavy and impossible whiskers, whose only duty it is to announce names wrongly, and to fall down with a tray of ices and apples—these are concessions which the Modern Playgoer is called upon to make so frequently, and which he does make so unhesitatingly, that it can only be supposed that he is under the impression that he is assisting at a state of existence wholly abnormal in itself, and having no reference whatever to the complex but familiar social organization which flourishes all round the dramatic temple in which he is sitting. It is required of him that he shall believe that when a gentleman who is giving a party wishes to speak confidentially with any of his guests, it

is usual for him to interrupt a polka (the only drawing-room dance recognized upon the stage), by requesting his guests to retire to some other apartment, which they do with the best possible grace, bowing ceremoniously as they leave the room. It not infrequently happens that he is called upon to allow that crimson neckties and pumps form portions of the dinner dress of an English gentleman of the present day. He must always be prepared to admit that when an Eastern monarch commands his Bayaderes or Odalisques to dance before him, he is not at all offended if they dance with their backs towards him; and, indeed, he must not be surprised to find that a troupe of fifty or sixty ballet girls forms part of the corps d'armee of every general officer. He must



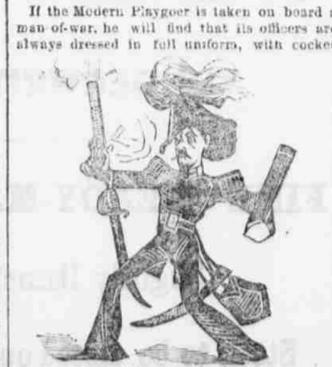
believe that "lights down" means pitchy night, and that the people who occupy the stage under such circumstances are wholly invisible to each other, though they are perfectly visible to him. He must accept as hardy rustics young ladies



Dancing Ploughboy. who stand in the third position, with hand on hip, and having figures and chignons. He must believe that the addition of a cloak or a strange hat to a gentleman's ordinary attire is sufficient to disguise him from his own mother. He must accept the theory that gentlemen who rescue young ladies from the clutches of melodramatic ravishers, and whose names are printed in large type in the bills, are accompanied by music, now soft, now stirring, wherever they go. He must be prepared to admit that great moral strength is always accompanied by great physical strength, and that one good man is at any time equal to twelve bad ones. He must allow that young ladies of high distinction are in the habit of rambling alone in dismal forests, long after the rest of the family had gone to bed, and that rambling under such circumstances, they always meet with a villain and a thunder-storm. He must accept the proposition that bad men are in the habit of revealing in soliloquy their most audacious projects, and that whenever they do so, a good man is crouching behind a bush listening to them. He must not be surprised to find that a pistol discharged into the air kills any one whose death the structure of the piece demands. He must also learn to look upon moustaches as ephemeral things that may drop off at any moment, and that nobody ever leaves a room without stopping to make a speech at the door.

His good nature is severely taxed whenever he is called upon to witness the representation of a dumb or blind character, or an idiot, but it never fails to honor the drafts made upon it. He must not be surprised to learn that dumb people whose education has not included a knowledge of the finger-alphabet possess powers of pantomimic narration (if you only give them room enough) which throw mere vocal eloquence altogether into the shade. He must always be prepared to find that there is always somebody at hand who can readily interpret a dumb person's gestures into a long and highly complex narration, requiring the nicest discrimination in the selection of high-frown metaphoric phrases on the part of the interpreter. He must not allow any preconceived ideas of the drawbacks which attend a state of blindness to militate against the theory that people so afflicted are, of all people in the world, the best qualified to unravel the mysteries with which a murderer case is surrounded; and he must allow, in a general way, that blind people, as a body, see with much greater distinctness than people who only have the use of mere eyes. He will find that idiots have a special faculty of expressing themselves in blank verse, and that in the matter of poetic apostrophe nobody can approach them; and he will learn that they, in common with all dumb and blind people, are admirable amateur detectives. He will also learn that dumb people can always hear, and that these three classes of unfortunates share with the Old Lady of Banbury Cross the questionable privilege of having music wherever they go.

If the Modern Playgoer is taken on board a man-of-war, he will find that its officers are always dressed in full uniform, with cocked hats, and that a naval captain wears a moustache and long hair, and carries a telescope. He will find that in action the captain is afraid of nothing in the world, except the discharge of his own pistol, and that there is always a marine on board who is a prominent coward. Although a dreadful coward in times of peace, he performs prodigies of valor when he engages the enemy, and indeed it is generally



owing to his intrepid but, at the same time, judicious course of action that the United States is not eventually swept from the map of the world. The Modern Playgoer will also learn that the crew of a man-of-war is composed of hardy tars in blue satin trousers, small waisls, and diamond earrings, who dance hornpipes with two flags apiece; also that an action at sea is often conducted from one of the lower decks. But it is when the Modern Playgoer is called upon to assist at the proceedings of a criminal court that the most unreasonable demands are made upon his simple faith in managers and their subordinates. It is then that he is required to believe that the assertions of the counsel for the Commonwealth, in a murder case, not infrequently form the principal evidence against the prisoner; that the evidence for the prosecution is invariably overthrown by the suggestions made by the counsel for the defense; that the evidence of the accused one's husband (or wife, as the case may be) is conclusive evidence of the prisoner's innocence; that all comic witnesses begin by getting into the jury-box by mistake, and that all deaf-and-dumb witnesses are allowed to give their evidence from the floor of the court, which is cleared of obstructions that they may have plenty of sea room. He is required to believe that all leading counsel are about eighteen or twenty years of age, and that they all wear what the late Mr. Albert Smith happily described as "an eyebrow on the upper lip"; that a judge is to allow himself to disbelieve evidence of the most conclusive description on the ground that no prisoner with such an eye as that possessed by the particular prisoner whose case is under consideration could possibly be guilty of the charges brought against him. He must not be surprised to discover that the prisoner turns out to be the Judge's long lost son, a connection by marriage of the foreman of the jury, and an early friend of the counsel for the defense. He will learn that the cheers which sometimes herald the acquittal of a popular malefactor are generally led by the learned judge upon the bench, and that the whole thing winds up with a chorus in which every member of the court has a voice. He will also learn that civil actions of all descriptions, particularly actions of ejectment and probate causes, are tried at sessions of Oyer and Terminer, and that the defendant in such actions is always placed in the dock handcuffed and guarded by two soldiers with fixed bayonets. He will further be required to believe that the title-deeds to estates of incalculable value and long inheritance are comprised in a sheet of letter paper, and that the owner (rightful or otherwise) for the time being always carries them in his pocket-book; also that the omission of a stamp from a deed of settlement effectually bars any action that may be brought upon it. Arrest for debt before judgment is still in vogue, and the last utterance of a dying criminal are quite sufficient to vest an estate in anybody whom it may occur to him to mention.

A great national poet thus gives vent to the anguish prevailing in patriotic circles:— Oh! why dost thou have us, Great nations hum-Bug Americans, And Punksies sum? Why gave you not Erin, Before you set sail, A fair chance to see you Outside of the jail? Our people were waiting, And eager to hear, And for your brave prating, And words of cool cheer, They'd have fed you on prattles, And whisky a-gal, And barring that male is Not rich in style, They'd have greased every meal With a slice of the pig, And made your heart happy By smacking a jug. Oh! why did the Lord, then, Come over your heart, That if you went not back, To get a good start On the road to the White House, In the next four-year race, It might possibly happen You'd not get the place? Sure the boys will sustain you With bullets and ink, And make you head Centre When Grant has to walk. They could never rest, Without feeling great pain, The President in the chair, In the gab of the Train. MARCH, Jan. 30, 1869.—The handsome ladies of Cadiz and of the capital unanimously favor the election of the Duke of Montpensier to the vacant throne, because they are convinced that his elevation will be followed by the universal introduction of French fashions and French etiquette, and they long for a change from the steeptyped Spanish modes. They are tired of the system which has heretofore required more time for the transportation of Grecian Bends and paniers across the Pyrenees than across the Atlantic.

PARRIS, Jan. 30, 1869.—The Emperor has been so much annoyed by the diatribes of Rochefort, that he has determined to destroy in the minds of the French people all recollection of the name of the newspaper in which these attacks appear, and he has accordingly issued a decree that the use of lanterns is henceforth forbidden. The war upon journals and journalists is continued, and it is understood in well-informed circles that it will never cease until the writers and publishers adopt the uniform rule of commencing every article with the exclamation, "Great is Napoleon III!" and of concluding all their productions with the sentence, "The Emperor can do no wrong."

CONSTANTINOPLE, Jan. 30, 1869.—An Englishman has been arrested here for high treason, and great excitement prevails, as the Government insists upon a vigorous prosecution of the offender, and the British Minister demands his immediate release, threatening war if his countryman is punished. The circumstances connected with this occurrence are as follows:—The Englishman, at a dinner party given by a British merchant, where good cheer prevailed, was overheard by a Mussulman servant who dropped a decanter, to exclaim "There goes the sublime port." The expression was reported to the Government, and immediately construed into an unpardonable insult.

AMSTERDAM, Jan. 30, 1869.—The Dutch have taken all Holland off to the canals to witness dash-ahead and tumble-down performances on the ice. Myhever von Skydenck is the champion male and Frau Chukdenek the champion female skater. They have attained such extraordinary grace and speed that they frequently skate a minute in a mile, and their consumption of Holland gin during the intervals which occur between their performances is wonderful to behold. Skydenck challenges the world to produce a skater that can smoke as many pipes of tobacco and simultaneously travel over as great a space as himself. If America does not accept this challenge, her skaters may as well consider themselves smoked out.

A piece that involves a war or an Indian outbreak is a terrible tax on the Modern Playgoer's complacency. He will find that the most fearful raptures owe their origin to utterly insignificant causes; such as the determination of a lieutenant to marry the daughter of an Indian chief at any sacrifice, or the determination of the chaplain to convert (broadly to Christianity as a first step, and then to Protestantism as a matter of detail) the lovely daughter of an excitable savage. These are a few of the demands which managers and authors are encouraged to make upon the good nature of this smiling martyr—The Modern Playgoer.

Cabalistic Telegrams from Europe.

PHILADELPHIA, January 18, 1869. Messrs. Marvin & Co., No. 721 Chestnut Street.—Gentlemen:—The two large safes you manufactured for us, and which were in the front part of our store during the late fire, were opened on Saturday last. Everything in them was found in perfect condition. They contained a large stock of our best and finest goods, Diamonds, Watches, etc., to an extensive amount. We have every confidence in the fire-proof qualities of your Safes under any emergency. Very respectfully, JAMES E. CALDWELL & CO.

A large assortment of the above SAFES for sale at our Principal Warehouses. MARVIN & CO., 721 CHESTNUT STREET (Masonic Hall), No. 265 BROADWAY, New York; No. 108 BANK STREET, Cleveland, Ohio.

PLEASE SEND FOR ILLUSTRATED CIRCULAR. 119 SOUTH G. L. MAISER MANUFACTURER OF FIRE AND BURGLAR-PROOF SAFES, LOCKSMITH, BELL-HANGER, AND DEALER IN BUILDING HARDWARE, No. 484 RACE STREET

ESTABLISHED 1828. HOLIDAY PRESENTS. WATCHES, JEWELRY, CLOCKS, SILVERWARE, and FANCY GOODS. G. W. RUSSELL, No. 22 NORTH SIXTH STREET, PHILADELPHIA.

OLD OAKS CEMETERY COMPANY OF PHILADELPHIA. OFFICE NO. 818 WALNUT STREET. THE COMPANY is now prepared to dispose of lots on REASONABLE TERMS. The advantages offered by this Cemetery are well known to be equal if not superior to those possessed by any other Cemetery. We invite all who desire to purchase burial lots to call at the office, where plans can be seen and all particulars will be given. Deeds for lots sold are ready for delivery. RICHARD VAUX, President. PETER A. KEYSER, Vice-President. MARTIN LANDENBERGER, Treasurer. MICHAEL NISKEY, Secretary. 111 G

INSURANCE COMPANIES. DELAWARE MUTUAL SAFETY INSURANCE COMPANY, Incorporated by the Legislature of Pennsylvania, 1855. Office B. E. corner of THIRD and WALNUT Streets, Philadelphia. MARINE INSURANCE. On Vessels, Cargo, and Freight to all parts of the world. FIRE INSURANCE. On goods by river, canal, lake and land carriage to all parts of the Union. FIRE INSURANCE. On Merchandise generally, on Stores, Dwellings, Houses, etc. ASSETS OF THE COMPANY, November 1, 1868. \$200,000 United States Five Per Cent. Loan, 10-40s..... \$208,500.00 120,000 United States Six Per Cent. Loan, 1861..... 136,800.00 50,000 United States Six Per Cent. Loan (for Pacific R.)..... 60,000.00 200,000 State of Pennsylvania Six Per Cent. Loan..... 211,375.00 125,000 City of Phila. Six Per Cent. Loan (except from tax)..... 128,594.00 50,000 State of New Jersey Six Per Cent. Loan..... 51,500.00 20,000 Fedd. Hall. First Mortgage Six Per Cent. Bonds..... 20,200.00 25,000 Penn. R. Second Mortgage Six Per Cent. Bonds..... 24,000.00 25,000 Western Penn. R. Mort. Six Per Cent. Bonds, (P. R. R. Guaranty)..... 20,625.00 30,000 State of Tennessee Five Per Cent. Loan..... 21,000.00 7,000 State of T. Insurance Co. Cent. Loan..... 5,081.25 15,000 Germantown Gas Co. principal and interest guaranteed by City of Phila. 300 shares Stock..... 15,000.00 10,000 Penn. Railroad Company, 200 shares Stock..... 11,300.00 4,000 North Penn. Railroad Co., 100 shares Stock..... 3,500.00 20,000 Phila. and Southern Ry. Co. 200 shares Stock..... 15,000.00 207,000 Loans on Bond and Mortgage, first liens on City Properties..... 207,900.00 \$1,109,000 Par. Market value, \$1,130,325.25 Real Estate..... 20,000.00 Bills receivable for insurance made here and elsewhere, premiums on marine policies, accrued interest, and other debts due the company..... 40,178.88 Stock and scrip of various corporations, \$100. Estimated value..... 1,815.00 Cash in bank..... \$116,160.98 Cash in drawer..... 413.45 \$1,647,367.80

DIRECTORS. Thomas C. Hand, Samuel E. Sinker, John C. Hand, Henry Sloan, Theophilus Paulding, William C. Ludwig, Joseph H. Seal, George G. Lelper, Hugh Craig, Henry C. Daltiel, Jr., John R. Penrose, John D. Taylor, Jacob F. Jones, George W. Barnard, James T. Francis, William G. Boutwell, Edward Darlington, Jacob Riegel, H. Jones Brooke, Spencer McVainne, James B. McFarland, A. B. Morgan, Philadelphia, Edward Lafourcade, John B. Sempie, Joshua F. Eyre, A. B. Berger, H. N. THOMAS, President. JOHN C. DAVIS, Vice-President. HENRY LYLURN, Secretary. HENRY BALL, Assistant Secretary. [10 6

1829-CHARTER PERPETUAL. Franklin Fire Insurance Co. OF PHILADELPHIA. OFFICE: Nos. 435 and 437 CHESTNUT STREET. ASSETS ON JANUARY 1, 1869. \$2,603,740.00. CAPITAL..... \$400,000.00 ACCUMULATED SURPLUS..... 1,015,888.85 PAID UP CAPITAL..... 1,187,851.15 UNSETTLED CLAIMS..... INCOME FOR 1867 \$35,093.25 \$35,093.00 LOSSES PAID SINCE 1859 OVER \$5,500,000. Perpetual and Temporary Policies on Liberal Terms.

DIRECTORS. Charles N. Bancker, Alfred F. Filer, Samuel Grant, Thomas Sparks, George W. Richards, William S. Grant, Isaac Lea, Alfred J. Baker, George Fales, Thomas S. Ellis. JAS. W. McALLISTER, Secretary pro tem. GEORGE FALES, Vice-President. This Company is Incorporated under the Act of the Legislature of Pennsylvania, 1829.

INSURANCE COMPANY NORTH AMERICA, No. 232 WALNUT STREET, PHILADELPHIA. INCORPORATED 1794. CHARTER PERPETUAL. Marine, Inland, and Fire Insurance. ASSETS JANUARY 1, 1868. - \$2,001,236.72. \$20,000,000 Losses Paid in Cash Since its Organization.

INSURANCE COMPANIES. FRANKLIN FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY PHILADELPHIA. Capital, \$400,000. Assets, \$2,677,372.13. Statement of the Assets of the Company on January 1, 1869, published in conformity with the provisions of the sixth section of the act of Assembly of April 5, 1842. MORTGAGES. On Property valued at over \$4,000,000, being First Mortgages on Real Estate in the city and county of Philadelphia, except \$35,517 in the neighboring counties..... \$2,469,235.25 REAL ESTATE. Purchased at Sheriff's sales, under Mortgage Claims, viz:— Eight houses and lot, S. W. corner Chestnut and Seventeenth streets... A house and lot, north side of Spruce street, west of Eleventh street... Two houses and lots, east side Cope street, north of Easton street... Six houses and lot, north side of a Sennett's court, east of Beach street... A house and lot, Fitzwater street, east of North street... 87 lots of ground on Buckley street and Quaker avenue, Bristol... A house and lot, west side Broad street, south of Race street... A house and lot, south side of Filbert street, west of Sixteenth street... A lot of ground, south side Lombard street, west of Twenty-third street. Total surveyed and valued at \$15,524.43..... 54,369.32

LOANS. Temporary Loans on Stocks as Col. lateral Policy (valued at \$13,720)..... \$47,113.30 STOCKS. \$8,200 U. S. Bonds, 1861..... \$40,000 U. S. 10-40 Registered Bonds..... \$4,000 U. S. 5-20 Registered Bonds, 1862..... \$22,700 Phila. City Loans, not tax-able..... \$6,000 Penn. R. Bonds, north side of Cent. Loan, May, 1861..... \$10,000 North Penn. R. R. Bonds..... \$500 North Penn. R. R. common scrip..... 650 shares Penn. Railroad Co. 91 do Franklin Fire Insurance Co. 200 do Bank of Kentucky..... 17 do Northern Bank of Ky..... 100 do Union Canal Company..... 13 do Insurance Company of the State of Penna. 200 do South-west Railroad Co. 24 do Union Canal Company..... 16 do Continental Hotel Co. 323 Philadelphia City Warrants..... Total Market Value..... \$172,637.00 NOTES AND BILLS RECEIVABLE..... 3,199.25 RECEIVED IN ADVANCE..... 127.95 R. H. Handmeyer for real estate sold, not yet conveyed..... 20,700.00 William H. Armstrong..... 600.00 M. Thomas & Co. for real estate sold..... 300.00 Cash on hand..... \$20,573.67 " in hands of Agents..... 5,418.25 TOTAL CASH..... 26,991.92 \$2,550,373.90